U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Julián Castro, Secretary Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

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## HUD AWARDS \$157 MILLION IN DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Funding to help communities impacted by last year's severe flooding

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro today announced \$157 million will be awarded to South Carolina communities for disaster recovery efforts following significant rainfall and flooding in October 2015. The funds will help to meet remaining unmet housing, economic development, and infrastructure needs that resulted from thousands of homes and small businesses being damaged or destroyed.

"After disaster strikes, the most important task is getting folks back to a safe home quickly, so they can return to their daily lives," said Secretary Castro. "With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters, we must take every opportunity to plan better and ensure faster recovery for communities across the nation. With this \$142 million disaster recovery investment, we uphold our commitment to helping these communities recover stronger and be better prepared for future disasters."

The disaster recovery funds announced today will be allocated to the following grantees for long-term disaster recovery efforts:

Grantee	Allocation
Lexington County	\$16,332,000
Columbia	\$19,989,000
Richland County	\$23,516,000
State of South Carolina	\$96,827,000
TOTAL	\$156,664,000

Congress appropriated \$300 million to address the unmet recovery needs in communities that were most impacted and distressed by a major flooding disaster in 2015. Communities in South Carolina and Texas, which will also receive recovery funds, were determined to have significantly higher unmet needs than jurisdictions impacted by other eligible disasters last year. With these funds, HUD is also encouraging grantees to incorporate resilience measures into their local action plans to ensure communities are more prepared for the next storm. Since Hurricane Sandy, HUD has taken significant steps to encourage resiliency planning and disaster preparedness in communities nationwide, including the \$1 billion *National Disaster Resilience Competition*.

HUD allocates <u>CDBG-Disaster Recovery</u> funds based on the best available data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration disaster loan programs to identify the areas of greatest need in the impacted region. Following a Presidential disaster declaration, *CDBG-DR* funds may be made available to states, local governments, and insular areas that have significant unmet recovery needs and the capacity to carry out a disaster recovery program.

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and http://espanol.hud.gov.

You can also connect with HUD on <u>social media</u> and follow Secretary Castro on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u> or sign up for news alerts on <u>HUD's Email List</u>.